

St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2016

PRESENT: Marge Fischer, Fr. Tom, Tricia Boyle, Yolande Lasky, Tom Molinski, Donna Higgins, Marge Casey, Barb Wilk, Michelle Konkel, Randy Green, Patti Penkalski, Mike Esser and Barb Freuck.

Meeting started at 7:10 P.M.

Opening Prayer: Year of Mercy Prayer.

Accepted minutes of the October 11, 2016 council meeting.

Father Tom's Time:

Troop 536 observed their 55th anniversary on Sunday, November 6th.

The first Thursday of December, December 1st, 2016, will be the celebration of First Reconciliation for our school children. Confirmation will be a collaborative event on May 22nd, 2017 with the youth from both Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and St. Gregory the Great Parish. Together there will be about 33 young people. Confirmation will be conferred either by an auxiliary bishop or Fr. Bill Burkert at Our Lady of Lourdes church.

Fr. Tom talked about the Archdiocese workshop for caregivers.

Fr. Tom also talked about the priests meeting with attention paid to active/retired priests that occurred in September and that this topic will continue in spring.

Fr. Tom also talked about the Vatican II Awards of which St. Gregory the Great will have two recipients, Miguel Antonio Mendez Geromino and Deacon James Banach. Miguel will be receiving the award for Service to the Missions and Deacon Jim will be receiving the award for Service in Ecumenism. The award presentation will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Cathedral of St. John in downtown Milwaukee. Please extend your congratulations to the two recipients when you see them.

Fr. Tom spoke about a Mission Trip to our sister parish, Our Lady of the Highest Graces, in the Dominican Republic. This mission trip is tentatively being planned for October, 2017. (**Patti Penkalski sent notes from the meeting of November 6th, 2016 regarding Sister Parish Meeting**): \$5,000 was transferred to the Dominican Republic last week. We will communicate to the Parish how the funds will be used; Miguel will contact Fr. Feliciano. Miguel will check with Tim Waldoch on his availability to speak at all of the Masses regarding his visit (end of January or beginning of February), and to encourage parishioners to step up and volunteer.

Miguel will also contact Fr. Feliciano regarding housing, and specific projects that the group will work on. Once a project has been determined, we will decide on how much needs to be raised for transportation and project cost. The plan is to fly out of Chicago-Midway into Punta Cana, and take ground transportation from there. We will ask the participants to raise funds through sponsor letters, as we have done with the youth mission trips, and offer parishioners an opportunity to support the mission as well. It is being planned for 4-6 people to participate in this trip. Adults will be making this trip; youths will not be involved in this particular mission trip. The next meeting for this committee is January 8th, 2017.

Administrative Update: Patti Penkalski

On the financial front, we are ahead of the year's budget -- Choice income came in higher than budgeted. Otherwise we are pretty much in line with our income and expenses as far as the budget is concerned.

A question came up about the 2016 festival profit. At this time, the festival committee is still waiting for one bill to come in for payment. We will receive an accounting after all of the bills have been paid.

The next big discussion centered on the signage needs that Fr. Tom had asked the council to think about at the October Parish Council meeting. It was unanimously decided that there is definite a need for signs around the parish property. Some of the points that came out this evening were: (1) Emergency responders need to know where to enter the facilities; (2) Door to be numbered for such emergency responders; (3) Possibility of attaching map in our worship booklet;

(4) Chalkboard near hospitality office; maybe a movable chalkboard showing directions to different areas for different events.

Perhaps maps with "You are here" markers were discussed. Also markers identifying **Handicapped** (or elevators) entrances. Church entrance/gym entrance signs would probably be helpful for both parishioners and visitors. Another option was giving maps out to help locate the different areas. Locations like Tenpenny Hall for people coming to special events should also be identified with signage. We will start implementing the signage in the summer of 2017. Signage for delivery trucks needs to be considered also. The monies will be used to get the signage job done (whatever that may be). It will become part of our yearly planned budget and not a specific fundraising project.

The next subject was the Deanery meeting which was held on October 12th, 2016. Our objective presented for our parish at this meeting was our signage issues. The next Deanery meeting will be held on April 26th, 2017 from 7-9 P.M. Our council is expected to send two representative to the deanery meetings. At this time Yolande Lasky thought she may be able to attend the April meeting (Mike Esser and Patti Penkalski attended the October 12th, 2016 meeting at St. Alphonsus Parish).

Among the items brought up at the deanery meeting were items regarding the upcoming year like Parish Leader Meeting in February, 2017 and that the Year of Mercy will be ending in November, 2016. Also, our parish council members were reminded to watch the 2016 Archdiocese of Milwaukee Video Convocation of October 22, 2016 on the Archdiocese website if they have not done so already.

Liturgy and Sacrament Report: Barb Freuck

The 3-Minute Catechesis continues to be published in the Sunday bulletin and a short synopsis is read during the announcements before the beginning of the weekend Masses. The Liturgical Commission meeting has not been scheduled yet; waiting until Cindy returns back to work and can attend the meeting.

The Arts & Environment Committee: Date has been set for the set-up for the 1st Sunday of Advent; it will take place on Friday, November 25th after the morning prayer service. Plans for the preparation for the Immaculate Conception holyday,

December 8th, 2016 have been made. Christmas set up will begin on Saturday, December 10th, 2016 with the trees and possibly the wreaths on the two walls being set up. The trees will not be lit however until Christmas Eve. Christmas flowers have been ordered as well as the greenery for the pots outside of the church office and Fr. Tom's house. Flowers and the nativity crib will be set up during the week of December 19th (depending upon the date that the poinsettias arrive at church).

Formation Report: Michelle Konkel

Confirmation Parent/Candidate meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th, 2016. Jo Therese Fahres will be the contact person for Confirmation information while Cindy Bremeier is out on medical leave.

Human Concerns: Barb Wilk

In Reach/Out Reach: We all should have heard the good news announcement this weekend about the Baby Shower for Women's Care Center. It was 3 vehicles completely full of items for donation! In Reach/Out Reach and SVDP will now work collaboratively on the Food Pantry Drive for the next two weekends. Food collection will take place at all Masses and by drop off at the parish office.

SVDP distributed 145 bags of food as of Saturday, November 3rd, 2016.

Family to Family Christmas Drive will take place right after the Food Pantry Drive. This will assist parish and school families with Scrip cards to shop for Christmas. This is the ONLY time of the year that we keep our project to solely our established parish families. (We do not accept outside referrals). That does it! A busy, busy time of year for human concerns projects!!

Finance: Tom Molinski and Marge Casey

The financial report was passed out tonight. We are pretty much on target between the income and expenses in both the budgeted and the actual summaries for the month of October. As stated earlier in the report, we are still waiting for one final bill to be submitted from the 2016 Festival. Once that is

taken care of, we will receive a festival financial report from the Festival Committee.

There was \$3,000 left over from the account for the repair of the doors by the Mother Mary statue on South 63rd Street. The left over money will be used for the door repair at the parish office.

Also, previously mentioned in the notes from the Sister Parish meeting, \$5,000 was sent to our sister parish, Our Lady of the Highest Graces, in the Dominican Republic.

Pastoral Care: Tricia Boyle

The Remembrance Mass and reception was a special celebration this past Saturday evening, November 5th, 2016. The event was very well attended. Father Tom commented that the change from a weekday evening to the Saturday Mass at 4 P.M. was a good idea because it was still light out (Daylight Savings Time had not ended yet) and being a weekend date made it easier for family members to attend.

The K4 and K5 students made turkey table decorations for the homebound and sick of our parish. They will be delivered in the upcoming week.

Community: Randy Green

The Boy Scout of Troop 536 will serve a fish fry on Friday, November 11th, 2016 from 4:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

Cub Pack 536 will be serving a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 13th, 2016 after the 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Masses

The Hospitality and Community Life Commission will assist at the November 20th, 2016 Hospitality Sunday after 8 A.M. and 10 A.M. Masses

School Commission: Yolande Lasky

Father Tom attended the meeting and the following are highlights of his information:

- The placement of new signage in the parish is currently being studied. Anticipated the project will be completed in spring.
- Money raised by Home and School for the new playground equipment has been set aside (\$35,000). Interest in the project should be confirmed and progress in the fundraising goal of \$75,000 should be visually represented in the school.
- The Choice and Archdiocesan audits have both been complete. The Archdiocesan audit noted that the parish is in the 'black' by \$6,000.

Highlights from Amy Schlegel's Principal's Report:

- The School Commission should update their webpage with minutes/dates and the names of members.
- The members of the School Commission will complete a self-study for the accreditation process.
- This year's Open House will be held on 1-31-2017. It will be promoted at the January Hospitality Sunday.
- A 3-5 year Strategic Plan for the school is being developed. Will be completed by the end of the school year.
- A copy of the 2016-17 approved school budget was distributed.
- There are currently 264 students registered in the school (10-18-2016).

- The K5 teacher will be on maternity leave effective March, 2017. Once the leave begins, the current aide will serve as the classroom teacher.
- The school Report Card, published by the Department of Public Instruction, will be release in early November. Only test scores earned by students in the Voucher Program will be published.
- A new intercom system was installed at the end of October.
- A member of the School Commission will complete some research on various playground equipment companies.

If anyone is interested in seeing the improvements being done through the school budget through the Home & School Association (technology, smartboards, laptops, etc.), please feel free to call the school principal to schedule a tour.

Stewardship: Mike Esser

The biggest project that the commission is working on right now is the signage issue. The members have been thoroughly walking the halls, nooks and crannies looking for the many ways that signage would make the parish facilities user-friendly. They are looking not only for directional signage but even just the welcoming signs for parishioners and visitors alike.

Closing Notes:

Next Deanery Meeting: Wednesday, April 26th, 2017 – St. Alphonsus (Parish Ministry Center), 7-9 P.M.

January Prayer – Randy Green

Hospitality Sundays: November 20th, 2016 Community Commission
December 18th, 2016 Christian Formation Commission

Next Parish Council Meeting – January 10th, 2017 at 7 P.M. in the Great Room

Closing Prayer – Tricia Boyle

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Minutes submitted by
Barb Freuck, Secretary
11-14-2016 St. Greg's Parish Council Minutes (Meeting 11-8-2016)